

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06797 260056Z

73

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 109171

P R 251200Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMEMBSSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6797

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OPS, IS, SY

SUBJECT: FONMIN ALLON ON WINTER WAR ON GOLAN

REF: A. TEL AVIV 6166(NOTAL)

B. USDAO TEL AVIV 291318Z OCT 74.

C. TEL AVIV 6778

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON UNDOF MANDATE ISSUE WITH FONMIN ALLON NOV 22 (REF C) HE RAISED SUBJECT OF WINTER WAR ON GOLAN. ALLON SAID THAT MILITARY EXPERTS WERE SAYING THAT BECAUSE OF ADVERSE WEATHR AND GROUND CONDITIONS FROM NOVEMBER ONWARDS, ISRAELI AIR AND ARMOR WOULD BE RELATIVELY DISADVANTAGED IN ANY WINTER CONFLICT WITH SYRIAN FORCES. ALLON SAID HE DID NOT BELEIVE THIS TO BE TRUE. ADVERSE WEATHER AND GROUND CONDITIONS WOULD AFFECT BOTH SIDES SIMILARLY. IF SNOW AND MUD SLOWED OR IMPEDED ISRAELI ARMOR AND AFFECTED ITS MANEUVERABILITY, IT WOULD BE TH SAMEFOR SYRIANS. THIS WAS ALSO TRUE IN AIR, HE SAID, AND WHAT WAS COLD FOR ISRAELI INFANTRY WAS ALSO COLD FOR SYRIANS.

2. COMMENT: ALLON'S ASSESSMENT THAT A WINTER WAR WOULD DISADVANTAGE BOTH SIDES EQUALLY SEEMS QUESTIONABLE TO US.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06797 260056Z

ISRAELI RELY MUCH MORE HEAVILY ON THEIR AIR FORCE THAN SYRIANS

DO. WHILE SITUATION ON GROUND MAY BE MORE COMPARABLE. SYRIANS HAVE HAD SIGNIFICATNLY MORE EXPERIENCE IN COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS THAN ISRAELIS. A YEAR AGO IDF WAS NOT EQUIPPED FOR WINTER WARFARE: THERE WERE NO HEATED TENTS, NOT ENOUGH WARM CLOTHING AND NO TIRE CHAINS. THERE WAS ALSO A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF COLD WEATHER PROBLEMS AND ONE MUST QUESTION TO WHAT EXTENT ONE WINTER'S EXPERIENCE OF MAJOR IDF DEPLOYMENT ON GOLAN HAS QUALIFIED IT TO FIGHT IN SEVERE COLD. IN SUM, WE CONSIDER THAT WINTER WAR CONDITIONS WOULD NOT FAVOR ISRAELIS, EITHER IN AIR OR ON GROUND.

3. WHETHER OR NOT ISRAELIS HAVE REALLY TAKEN A TURN IN THEIR THINKING ON WINTER WARFARE ON GOLAN, IT IS INTERESTING AND MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT FONMIN ALLON CHOSE TO RAISE MATTER WITH ME. ALLON IS A FORMER SENIOR ISRAELI MILITARY OFFICER WHOSE VIEWS ON MILITARY MATTERS CARRY SOME WEIGHT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. GIVEN TENSION IN AREA AND A CERTAIN ISRAELI FATALISM ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTHER WAR CAN BE AVOIDED, WE WOULD WELCOME RESULTS OF AN WASHINGTON THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT THAT HOPEFULLY WAS STIMULATED BY REFS A AND B.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEATHER MODIFICATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV06797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740342-0147
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741113/aaaaalbi.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. TEL AVIV 6166(NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN ALLON ON WINTER WAR ON GOLAN
TAGS: MOPS, IS, SY, (ALLON, YIGAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005